

The New York Times

Front Row

Eric Wilson

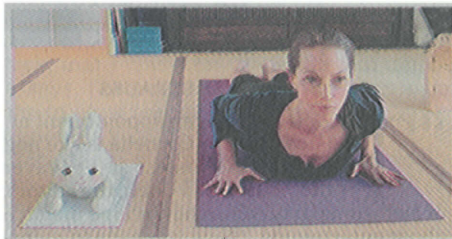
Smile And Say 'Carrot Cake'

KYM CANTER, the creative director of J. Mendel, the fur and luxury house, would like it known that her employment contract includes certain provisions about her standards. She does not use fake fur. And she would never work with so lowly a fur as rabbit.

A fake rabbit, however, is another story, and hers is called Star Von Bunny.

As a lark, Ms. Canter carried around a plush bunny doll by that name for six years at J. Mendel, during her previous job as a special projects editor for magazines and during her freelance years. She asked the celebrities she encountered to pose with the doll and once managed to work the bunny into a fashion shoot by tucking Star under the arm of a model who appeared in the pages of *Elle*. Carine Roitfeld, the editor of *French Vogue*, agreed to a go-see.

Ms. Canter then began to conceive a back story for Star, namely that she wanted to become a fashion model. This week, her book on her muse, "Star Von Bunny, a Mod-



WILLIAM MORROW/HARPERCOLLINS

FUN FUR Christy Turlington, above, and Carine Roitfeld with Star Von Bunny.



el Tale" (HarperEntertainment), goes on sale at Barneys New York and Fred Segal in Los Angeles, where the rabbit signed (or stamped) autographs on Tuesday.

"She hopes to go after Hello Kitty," Ms. Canter said. "She's a bunny with big ambitions."

In the book, the rabbit arrives in New York and signs with Bored Model Management, where an agent tells her to lose an inch around the waist. Her response is to eat all white food, like Grande Vanilla Crème with whip at Starbucks, noting that "having a drink without coffee saves five calories." Pages later, she is on a casting at Chanel, where she is mistaken for a pin-cushion.

"It was really done as a goof on the celebrity-obsessed culture and to poke a little fun at our industry," she said. "This is the story of everyone I know who left home because they wanted to become something bigger. It's a positive message to follow your dream. She's not in rehab. She's not getting arrested. She's not abusing her children. I guess she is appearing pantyless, but three out of four isn't bad."